



News from Shaines & McEachern, PA and GreenEnergyLaw.org

Our Top Picks From This Week's Most Relevant and Interesting Business, Technology, and Legal News Relating to Renewable Energy. Week of 12-7-2009

JOBS ACT EXTENDS 50 PERCENT FIRST-YEAR BONUS DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, introduced the Clean Renewable Energy Advancement Tax Extension Jobs (CREATE Jobs) Act of 2009. The measure, S. 2826, would extend the 50 percent first-year bonus depreciation allowance that is scheduled to expire at the end of this year and extend that through to the end of 2010 instead. The bill also extends the tax credit for the production of electricity from wind and open-loop biomass and increases the amount of bond authority for new clean renewable energy. Grassley is the father of the wind energy tax credit, having sponsored the first-ever provision enacted in 1992.

<http://finance.senate.gov>
Press_Office@finance-rep.senate.gov

CAPE WIND POWER CUTS DEAL WITH NATIONAL GRID

BOSTON, MA - Cape Wind, the offshore wind project proposed for Nantucket Sound, has reportedly entered into a long-term memorandum of understanding with National Grid to sell power to that Northeast utility. The agreement will allow the 430-megawatt wind farm to solidify project financing, so that it can be constructed and placed into operation in time to qualify for stimulus grants. The project has been challenged repeatedly in the Legislature, Congress, and the courts. Cape Wind has yet to receive all of the permits necessary to begin construction but the project has overcome nearly all of the regulatory hurdles it has faced in the eight years since it was proposed, including winning a favorable environmental review from the federal Minerals Management Service.

<http://www.capewind.org/news1038.htm>

NEW WEBSITE LETS NEW YORKERS SWITCH TO GREEN POWER WITH RECS

NEW YORK, NY - A joint effort by the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Alliance for Clean Energy created a website for New York City residents and small business owners to switch to renewable energy and allows them to select the type of power and energy provider. The website and underlying initiative is a collaboration between The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACENY) and the city of New York to trade in Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), also known as Green tags, Renewable Energy Credits, or Tradable Renewable Certificates (TRCs), non-tangible yet tradable energy commodities in the United States representing 1 megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity that was generated from an eligible renewable energy resource. Certificates are sold and traded or bartered through programs such as this initiative in New York. Through this process, the owner of the REC can claim to have purchased renewable energy.

<http://www.aceny.org/news/aceny-news.cfm#newsid84421>
<http://www.greenpowernyc.com>



GREAT LAKES OFFSHORE WIND PLANS TAKE NEXT STEP

LEWISTON, NY - The New York Power Authority (NYPA) President and Chief Executive Officer Richard M. Kessel announced today the release of a request for proposals (RFP) for the development of offshore wind power projects in the New York State waters of Lake Erie and/or Lake Ontario. Not only will this represent the first initiative in the Great Lakes, it will be the first wind power development of any kind in a fresh water body in the nation. The Authority announced on Earth Day in April that it wants to erect between 120MW and 500MW of wind-generating capacity on the state's two Great Lakes, Erie and Ontario. Issuing the requests for proposals this week, the Authority promised that projects would be awarded to developers within the next year. The new wind sites are expected to come online by 2015.

<http://www.nypa.gov/press/2009/091201.htm>

NREL RELEASES 2009 STATE OF THE STATES RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

GOLDEN, CO - The U.S Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory has issued its second a state-by-state analysis of renewable energy technologies across the USA. The report shows how renewable energy technologies are spreading throughout the country and compares renewable energy generation between states. According to the report, California and Texas still remain at the top of the list of states with renewable energy generating capacity, however many smaller states have the beginnings of a booming renewable energy industry. California led the nation in terms of total non-hydroelectric renewable generation in 2007; Maine is No. 1 when also considering state population and gross state product. Solar capacity is concentrated in the southwestern and northeastern states.

<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy10osti/46667.pdf>

SENATORS INTRODUCE THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Jim Webb (D-VA) have introduced "The Clean Energy Act of 2009," a bipartisan bill to promote further investment and development of the nation's clean energy technologies, including nuclear power and other resources. The Alexander-Webb bill is designed to invigorate the economy, create jobs, and move the United States toward providing clean, carbon-free sources of energy.

"The Clean Energy Act of 2009" spends \$20 billion over the next 10 to 20 years to fund a series of loan guarantees; workforce training assistance; research into nuclear reactor lifetime-extension; and the development of solar power, biofuels, and alternative power technologies. The bill follows the urging of Secretary of Energy Steven Chu to increase funds available for the development of nuclear power facilities and technology. The legislation is designed to keep the United States competitive in a global marketplace that has accelerated the development of nuclear power.

<http://webb.senate.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2009-11-16-01.cfm>

NEW YORK UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES MUNICIPAL LOAN PROGRAMS FOR SOLAR

ALBANY, NY - New York State lawmakers have approved municipal loan programs for renewable and energy efficiency improvements on homes and businesses. Known as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, homeowners can install solar generation and make efficiency improvements without upfront cost. Municipalities can leverage federal funds in order to provide loans to commercial and residential property owners to finance energy efficiency retrofits and renewable energy systems. Property owners could then opt into these programs and reap an immediate savings on their energy costs and repay their loans via an annual charge on their property tax bill.

http://www.state.ny.us/governor/press/press_1116091.html

<http://pacenow.org/>



NEW BERKELEY LAB REPORT SHOWS THAT THE INSTALLED COST OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS IN THE U.S. FELL IN 2008

BERKELEY, CA - A new report by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab shows a significant decrease in solar costs over the last ten years, with the most recent decline in costs primarily the result of a decrease in PV hardware costs with the average down by more than 30 percent from 1998 to 2008. Within the last year, costs fell by more than 4 percent. Long-term reductions in installed cost are most evident for systems ≤100 kW. The study found that average installed costs, in terms of real 2008 dollars, declined from \$10.80 per watt in 1998 to \$7.50 per watt in 2008, equivalent to an average annual reduction 3.6 percent per year in real dollars.

<http://newscenter.lbl.gov/press-releases/2009/10/21/new-berkeley-lab-report-shows-that-the-installed-cost-of-solar-photovoltaic-systems-in-the-us-fell-in-2008/>

DUTCH FLY FIRST PASSENGER FLIGHT POWERED BY BIOFUEL

AMSTELVEEN, THE NETHERLANDS - Dutch airline KLM has completed a fifth jet biofuel test flight and the first with passengers using a 50-50 blend of regular jet fuel and biofuel refined from camelina oil in one of its four engines. The fuel, called biokerosene, is the result of collaboration between KLM and industry partners as the SkyEnergy consortium. Jet biofuel from camelina can reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by as much as 84 percent and be grown in rotation with wheat crops.

<http://corporate.klm.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/archive-2009/klm-takes-strides-in-sustainable-air-transport>

CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS INTRODUCE SOLAR ENERGY SITE DATABASE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Solar Land Bank LLC, a San Francisco-based real estate developer of turnkey sites for renewable energy power generators, has launched a solar energy site database. The database contains detailed site information to view differing site characteristics such as location, property size, permitting status and leasing/acquisition terms. The database contains both raw land sites and large rooftop opportunity sites and solar properties that have been acquired directly by Solar Land Bank that are available to energy generating companies for sale or lease.

<http://solarlandbank.com/>

SOLAR POWER FROM SPACE GETS CLOSER TO REALITY

SACRAMENTO, CA - California regulators have approved a utility contract for the nation's first space-based solar power plant. The experimental technology will use orbiting satellites equipped with solar cells to convert the sun's energy into electricity, which is then converted into radio frequency energy transmitted to a local receiver station. The proposed 200-megawatt orbiting solar farm would convert solar energy from space and beam it down to a ground station near Fresno, Calif. The radio waves would then be transformed back into electricity and fed into the power grid. A Southern California start-up called Solaren will loft components for the solar power plant into orbit and sell the electricity it generates to Pacific Gas and Electric, the major utility in Northern California, under a 15-year contract beginning in 2016. The proposal voted on by the CPUC is available at:

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/AGENDA_RESOLUTION/110216.htm.

MIT DEVELOPS LIQUID BATTERY TO STORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

CAMBRIDGE, MA - Scientists at MIT have developed a process to keep a battery in liquid form using liquid metal alloys that are cheap and widely-available, but kept under constant high temperature of around 700 degrees celsius. Energy from the renewable energy source is stored in the metal alloys, and when the battery needs to supply energy, ions from one of the alloys travel through a salt electrolyte, out of the battery. In the laboratory, energy input is needed for the battery to maintain its liquid form. But upon large scale use for power plants, the electricity coursing through the battery from the renewable energy source is enough to keep it liquid.



UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE GETS UNDERWAY

POZNAŃ, POLAND - The two-week long United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poland is underway, the fourteenth Conference of the 192 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fourth meeting of the 183 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Up to eleven thousand participants, including government delegates from 186 Parties to the UNFCCC and representatives from business and industry, environmental organizations and research institutions, are attending.

http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/cop_opening_press_release-english.pdf

NO WIDESPREAD IMPACT ON US PROPERTY VALUES BY NEARBY WIND POWER PROJECTS

BERKELEY, CA - The U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory claims in a just-released report that proximity to wind energy facilities does not have a pervasive or widespread adverse effect on the property values of nearby homes. The new report, funded by the DOE, is based on site visits, data collection, and analysis of almost 7,500 single-family home sales, and finds that there is no conclusive evidence of widespread property value impacts in communities surrounding wind energy facilities and if these impacts do exist, they are either too small and/or too infrequent to result in any widespread, statistically observable impact.

<http://eetd.lbl.gov/EA/EMP>

<http://eetd.lbl.gov/eap/EMP/reports/lbnl-2829e-ppt.pdf>

NEW JERSEY LAWMAKERS SPEARHEAD STATE PROPERTY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

TRENTON, NJ - A legislative package designed to ease regulatory blockades for more renewable energy in New Jersey was approved by that state's Senate Economic Growth Committee. If the legislation passes, New Jersey would create a nine-member Solar and Wind Energy Commission to study the feasibility of installing solar panels and wind energy turbines on state-owned properties and investigate all state-owned property to determine which locations could feasibly support solar or wind energy installations. The legislation would also prohibit municipalities from adopting local ordinances that unreasonably limit the installation and operation of small wind energy systems.

<http://www.politickernj.com/jtbutkowski/35260/smith-renewable-energy-legislative-package-approved-committee>

LAYOFFS AT FPL SOLAR PROJECT

INDIANTOWN, FL – Approximately 170 workers at Florida Power & Light Co.'s new solar plant in Indiantown have been laid off. According to FPL, the 500-acre facility will be the second largest solar-thermal field in the nation and will create the world's first hybrid solar energy plant when construction is completed in 2010. Earlier this year, about 8,000 individuals applied for positions at the plant at large job fairs. In April, FPL said the plant was expected to have 1,100 jobs.

<http://www.cbs12.com/news/florida-4722882-fpl-lays.html>

###

Contact: Rob Wolf @ 603-436-3111; rwolf@shaines.com or rob.wolf@greenenergylaw.org

© Shaines & McEachern, PA 2009

282 Corporate Drive
Pease International Tradeport
Portsmouth, NH 03802-0360
NH tel 603-436-3110
NH Fax 603-436-2993
<http://www.shaines.com>

8 Faneuil Hall Marketplace
3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02109
MA tel 617-973-6494
<http://www.greenenergylaw.org>

